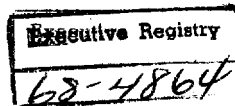


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Attachment C
5 November 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman IHC

SUBJECT : Appraisal of the USIB File and Program
Catalog System

1. Our general appraisal of this system is that it ought to be continued for at least another year and if we had to pronounce its sentence for a longer term we would opt for its continuation.

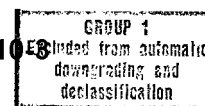
2. Analysis of the system indicates that it is infrequently used but where it has been used it has occasionally turned up important files that would never have been discovered in its absence. The latter judgment has been pronounced by competent analysts who make excellent use of reference services.

3. The cost of maintenance of the system to the Agency is negligible, less than one man month over past two years. It has been difficult to encourage individuals responsible for particular computer applications to provide data for this system but the response has been maintained. Moreover, I expect the response to record-creation and maintenance to improve as the number of analysts employing the computer in their production and reference functions increases.

4. The Agency found citation of the existence of the FPCS a valuable means of staying GSA from seeking a disclosure of classified software. The existence of such a catalog to which the entire intelligence community had access indicated both community awareness of the potential need for such an activity and an active effort to satisfy that need.

5. The catalog in its present form has certain features which we believe could be eliminated with only minor loss and which would benefit both intelligence analyst and computer processor users.

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The secret version of the document lists an enormous volume of small utility programs which must cost more to obtain than it would cost to write the programs from scratch. With the widespread use of 3rd generation equipment incorporating complex operating systems in which these utilities are normally available and for a number of technical reasons that I'll not enumerate, I think that these utility type programs could be eliminated. Perhaps what is needed is a look at the original guidance for system listings. The catalog is uneven, about the same amount of space devoted to the whole SAC system as to a utility to invert a specific type of file. Despite these defects, however, users have been able to find the files and programs they wanted if they were listed in the catalog.

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CIA Member
IHC

STATOTHR

cc:
IHC Secretariat

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